

The Week of March 15, 2026

THE KISKI WEEKLY



From the Desk of Rev. Erin Kobs, Organizational Presbyter & Stated Clerk

We had a wonderful Stated Gathering this past Saturday! Pisgah Presbyterian Church did a wonderful job hosting us, providing warm hospitality & an excellent lunch. Our total attendance (both in person & online) was 84 folks, with 35 ruling elder commissioners along with the majority of our active minister members. There were a number of first time elder commissioners, which is always so wonderful to see.

The highlights of the gathering are as follows:

- A visit from Rev. Tony Larson, Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly. Tony led us in worship, offering a timely & engaging sermon, brought greetings from the denomination, & offered his perspective on the status of world mission for the PC(USA), in conversation with Rev. Dr. Don Dawson from Pittsburgh Presbytery, who has long standing engagement in world mission.
- Ruling Elder Matthew Gress was commissioned to begin serving for & with the Srader Grove Church beginning on Sunday, March 15th. We celebrate & support this new ministry together.
- Rev. Dennis Molnar shared updates from Camp Lambec, including how the camp ended 2025 in the black due specifically to a significant gift from the closure of Faith Presbyterian Church in Kittanning. If you want information about the camp, talk with Dennis!
- Rev. Marty Cartmell shared her story about involvement in the first trip to visit our partners in Rwanda. Ruling Elder Mark Phoebus shared updates on the fundraiser to provide motorcycles for pastors in Gitarama Presbytery. The fundraiser continues through June 1st!
- Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser shared learnings from the Thriving Congregations Churches & things she is learning in conversations she is engaged in with our churches & pastors.

Our next Stated Presbytery Gathering will be on Tuesday, May 12th, 6:30pm at Gilgal Presbyterian Church. We hope to see many of you there!

Blessings,

Tony Larson seeing his shadow at Gobbler's Knob!



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[Kiski Presbytery](#)
[Synod of the Trinity](#)

Rev. Erin Kobs: orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org; 717.419.0608 (cell)
Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser: trainingpresbyter@kiskipby.org

Presbytery Upcoming Events

- March 22nd: Angela worshipping with Heilwood & Cherry Tree
- March 24th: 6:00pm Organization Commission
- March 28th: 9:00am-2:00pm Pulpit Supply Preaching Class
- March 29th: Erin preaching at First Church, Ridgway
Angela worshipping at Summit Church, Indiana
3:00pm Presbytery Choir Cantata @ Shelocta
- March 30th - April 6th: Erin in Ohio (working remotely)

Sympathies

Our sympathies to the family of Rev. William Starr, who was an honorably retired pastor & served a long pastorate at the Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney, who passed away on Monday, March 16th.

Our sympathies to the family of Ruling Elder Ted Geidle of Cowensville who passed on Saturday, March 14th. His daughter Stephanie served as pastor in Kiski.



Dear Neighbor,
Won't you be our neighbor? Fred Rogers spent decades reminding the world that kindness, compassion, and love can shape a community. Inspired by that spirit, we invite you to a very special Mister Rogers-inspired

worship service at Crete Presbyterian Church. Join us on Friday, March 20. The worship service begins at 7:00 PM.

This joyful and meaningful evening will celebrate the values that made Mister Rogers so beloved: being a good neighbor, caring for one another, and recognizing that every person is special and loved by God. Through music, reflection, and a warm sense of community, we will gather together in the spirit of neighborliness that Mister Rogers shared with generations.

You're welcome to come early at 6:00 PM to enjoy a neighborly casserole dinner with rolls, desserts, and fellowship, or simply arrive for the service at 7:00 PM. Cardigan sweaters are warmly encouraged (but not required!) as we embrace the familiar comfort and kindness of the Neighborhood.

Upcoming Events Around Kiski



Shelocta is holding Taize Services on Tuesday evenings during Lent at 6:00pm. All are welcome!

Saltsburg is hosting a blood drive on March 21st from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Call Rev. Satler (724-462-9622) to reserve a time slot.

Elderton events:

- An all-church birthday celebration on March 21st honoring everyone with dinner, games, & a ventriloquist act.
- Palm Sunday on March 29th at 10:30am with palms.
- Maundy Thursday tenebrae service on April 2nd at 7:00pm with communion.

Elderton's Butterfly Hill Preschool will host an Art Show at the Elderton Fire Hall on April 1st from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Stop by & enjoy the beautiful artwork on display.

New Rehoboth-Greenville is holding a joint Maundy Thursday Service & Dinner at Pisgah Church on April 2nd. Randy Stear will be leading worship.

New Rehoboth-Greenville is having their Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast on April 5th at 7:00am. Randy Stear will be leading worship. Please bring a dish to share.

Elderton will hold a Men's Bible Study (those over 50) on April 21st at 11:00am at Crouse's Cafe in Shelocta.

St. Paul's is planning a trip to Sight & Sound to see the show Joshua on Saturday, April 25th. It is \$220 per person, which includes bus transportation, ticket, & lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasboard. For more information, contact Dorothy at 814-502-7834.



Good News Board

Have some good news to share? Email us at orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org



Birthdays

Pastors with March birthdays:

- March 1st: Donna Kanouff (Clymer & Harmony United)
- March 7th: Sheila Wadding (Dayton Glade Run)
- March 8th: Stanley Bhasker (Brookville)
Ray Eichler (First, East Brady)
- March 25th: Michelle Worzbyt (At Large)

News from the Board of Pensions

The Board of Pensions will be hosting **Benefits Regional Summits: Support for Congregational Leaders** throughout April & May across the country. These summits, hosted by Executive Team members & Church Consultants will contain updates to the Board of Pensions plans & programs determined at the March 2026 Board of Directors Meeting. We encourage pastors, Personnel Committee chairs, & church business administrators to attend these informative town halls.

We hope you will attend the Summit in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, May 5 or Philadelphia on Thursday, May 7. Please Register here: [2026 Benefits Regional Summits: Support for Congregational Leaders - The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

Readers for Presbytery Cantata

The organizers of the Presbytery Choir Cantata are seeking folks who are willing to read for the cantata on Sunday, March 29th. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie Backus (sbackus@pts.edu).

Items Available

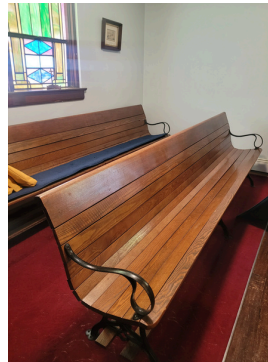
Brockway Presbyterian Church has choir robes available to be given away at no cost. Churches or ministries in need of choir robes are welcome to receive them. We would be glad to see them used in another congregation's music ministry.

For more information or to arrange pickup, please contact the church office at 814-268-2463 or email at brockwaypc@gmail.com

Shelocta Church has the following items available for a donation:

- Wicks & oil for oil candles
- Pews

Please contact Pam Cavalier at the church office for more information (724-354-2352)



Clerk of Session Corner

Here is important information for clerks of session of our congregations



2026 PA Annual Reports

As you may recall, starting in 2025, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is now requiring all businesses & non-profits to file an annual report, rather than a decennial report. You will need to complete this report each year. The deadline to file is **June 30, 2026**. There is no fee for non-profits if you file prior to the deadline, but please know there are late fees if you file beyond it. You will be receiving information from the state, either a postcard in the mail or email, so please be on the lookout for that.

It is important to file so that you do not lose the name of your church! Also, be sure to update the names of your officers to keep accurate records with the state.

For more information & the online portal to file, [visit here](#). Please note that the presbytery **cannot** file this on your behalf.

2026 Per Capita Rates

Presbytery: \$27.00

Synod of the Trinity: \$2.40

General Assembly: \$11.26

Total: \$40.66

Remittance forms have been sent to all church treasurers. If you have not received it, please contact the office. A blank form is available on the [Kiski website](#).

Annual Minute Review

It is about that time again! Here are the dates for the annual review of session records (most places to be determined).

- Saturday, May 23rd @ 10:00am (Presbytery Office)
- Thursday, May 27th @ 7:00pm
- Monday, July 6th @ 7:00pm (Brookville)
- Saturday, July 11th @ 10:00am (Shelocta Community)
- Wednesday, July 15th @ 6:00pm

Pulpit Supply List

Starting March 1st, the fee will increase to \$125.00 plus mileage for one church & \$85.00 each for two churches plus mileage

Ministers of the Word & Sacrament (can administer sacraments & moderate meetings; those designated HR are retired)

Rev. Katelyn Hendrickson: 724-664-1177

Rev. Erin Kobs: 717-419-0608

Rev. Gary Lyon (HR): 724-448-6036

Rev. Lisa Lyon (HR): 724-448-6036

Rev. Katie Ward Stear (HR): 724-464-3031

Rev. Dr. Don Wilson (HR): 202-60-8773

Authorized Pulpit Supply (can only lead worship & preach, not administering sacraments or moderating meetings)

Dale Anderson: 724-713-3265

Sharon Dennard: jandjmother@gmail.com

Merissa DeVries: 724-994-7163

Jerry Hoch: 724-463-3292

Lora Hubbard: 412-389-4843

Donna Kanyan: 724-479-8941

James Lee: 724-298-3266

Eric Longwell: 724-599-8690

Carrie Martin: 412-901-3258

Noble Ramsey: 724-683-5990

Kyle Rishell: 724-762-1702

Eric Schall: elkneric@windstream.net

Vivian Shaeffer: 724-664-6430

TJ Spense: 724-840-6969 (prefers text message) ***note updated**

Randy Stear: randystear@comcast.net

Bill Snyder: 814-715-6162

Donna Yarnal: 724-840-7326

Jerry Young: 724-541-2967

Please know that a new way to help churches secure pulpit supply is in the works & the hope is to have it available in the coming months. More information to follow.

Call for Prayer for Lebanon



This past week, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have begun to invade the southern part of Lebanon, pushing out the villagers in 52 villages below the Litani River, so that IDF troops would be able to occupy the area. Many fear their homes and olive trees will be looted by the IDF. They have bombed the villages and destroyed the bridge that connects the south to the rest of the country; near Marjeoun, a priest was killed by IDF shelling. Rocket and drone strikes have also begun in the suburbs of Beirut, in central Beirut, and in the northern parts of Lebanon as well. People are dying, families are broken, and many are injured and unable to receive appropriate medical care.

Presently, nearly one million evacuees are seeking shelter in churches, schools, community centers, as well as on sidewalks in the capital and further north. However, many are ill-prepared for the situation as they left their homes with only the clothes on their backs and whatever they could grab as they evacuated in the middle of the night. Landlords are reluctant to rent to Shi'a IDPs, if they have the funds, for fear their buildings may be targets of the IDF. Several NESSL churches have opened their facilities to receive evacuees, but many still need shelter, food, and sanitary facilities. It is currently windy and raining in Beirut and many of these IDPs (internally displaced people) not only have no shelter, but are now out in the cold and without food. One of our partners told us, "We distributed 300 sandwiches today...how hard it is to see people running to ask for food for themselves and their families."

UN officials have met with Lebanese government leaders to seek help in stopping Hezbollah from interfering in the situation, but to no avail. Israel continues to respond saying they are attacking "...only Hezbollah infrastructure," raising the question of how there can be such 'infrastructure' among the sidewalk evacuees along the Mediterranean or near the Parliament buildings in Beirut.

Despite these horrific reports, another partner has shared, "we also hear the voices of those saying, 'What we feel are shifting waves ... sometimes of worry, sometimes of anger, sometimes of fear, yet also of peace, moments of joy, and certainly gratefulness.'" The children of a Syrian Sunday School are praying together for the entire region, "Lord of peace, give us Your peace." Children in Iraqi churches are also praying, as all of us around the world pray... for the region to once again be one of stability and Salam.

Rev. Joseph Kassab, NESSL's General Secretary, offers this to direct our prayers: "In times of war, we pray not for the victory of empires, but for the protection of human life created in God's image. When Empires struggle for power and might, the Church stands spiritually with the innocent who suffer the consequences.

Our prayer rises first for the safety of civilians: children, families, the elderly, and all who live in fear. We pray for all innocent victims of violence, regardless of nationality or side. We ask God to restrain the forces of destruction and to soften the hearts of leaders who hold power over war and peace. In Christ, peace is not weakness but the true strength that protects life and dignity.

The Church's witness is to keep hope alive when despair seems stronger than faith. We pray that Lebanon may be protected. We pray for our congregations in the South, especially those of Alma El-Shaab, who were forced to evacuate their village without knowing if they would ever go back. We pray for our Churches in Marjeoun who decided to stay despite the danger."

Please join the SLPN in praying for our hurting world, but especially for all God's children in Lebanon, that all nations might work together seeking a time of mercy, peace, and understanding, that together all people might have food and shelter and experience dignity and true freedom.

Presbytery Choir Cantata

Join us for a wonderful afternoon of music & readings



SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH 3:00PM

Shelocta Community Presbyterian Church
182 South Ridge Road, Shelocta

